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PATENT**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**Attorney Reference Number 7214-69896-01
Application Number 10/516,862**FEB 22 2007**Remarks

Claims 1-18 and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 18 is amended. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-18 and 20 will remain pending. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Swinehart during the telephone interview of February 20, 2007. In the interview, the rejection of claim 18 and proposed amendments to claim 18 were discussed. Although no formal agreement was reached, based on discussions during the interview, it appears that the above amendments to claim 18 should be sufficient to overcome the § 102(b) rejections of claim 18. The substance of the interview is further discussed in the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the recognition of claims 1-17 as containing allowable subject matter.

Cancelled Claim 19

Claim 19 was cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in Applicant's October 5, 2006 Amendment After Final Action. To the extent that cancellation of claim 19 has not been entered, please consider this a request to cancel claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 19 is cancelled in view of the amendments to base claim 18. Applicant reserves the right to pursue this claim and other similar claims in separate applications.

Rejection of Claim 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office action rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,997,376 ("Block"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 is directed to an adjustable fin system for watercraft having a hull comprising a fin terminating at one end in a foot, a fin box comprising a cavity having an opening, and a fin lock. As amended, claim 18 recites that "the fin comprises an overlapping portion extending

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about an entire periphery of the fin adjacent the foot" where the overlapping portion is "sized to extend beyond an entire periphery of the opening when the foot is inserted in the cavity and the fin is in any one of the plurality of positions."

Block does not teach or disclose each and every feature of claim 18.

Specifically, Block does not teach or disclose a fin comprising an overlapping portion extending about an entire periphery of the fin adjacent the foot. Also, Block does not teach or suggest a fin comprising an overlapping portion sized to extend beyond an entire periphery of an opening of a fin box cavity.

For at least the above reasons, Block does not anticipate the combination of features recited in claim 18. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 18 and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office action rejects claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,585,663 ("Johnson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Johnson does not teach or disclose each and every feature recited in claim 18. For example, similar to Block, the fin 29 of Johnson does not include an overlapping portion sized to extend beyond an entire periphery of the channel 17 defined by the mounting box 14. As shown in Fig. 1 of Block, the flanges 30, 31 extend beyond only a side portion of the periphery of the channel 17 and not other portions of the periphery, such as fore and aft portions of the periphery. Accordingly, Johnson does not teach or disclose a fin having an overlapping portion sized to extend beyond an entire periphery of an opening of a fin box cavity.

For at least this reason, Johnson does not anticipate the combination of features recited in claim 18. Accordingly withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20, being dependent upon base claim 18, is allowable for at least the same reasons as for claim 18, as well as for the respective additional features recited therein. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion


Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the current claims are drawn to allowable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further, such as amendments to the claims, is necessary to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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